

# Jonah

<sup>1</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. <sup>3</sup> But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare of it, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was in danger of being broken. <sup>5</sup> Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man to his god, and cast the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. But Jonah had gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup> So the ship-master came to him, and said to him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, it may be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. <sup>7</sup> And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. <sup>8</sup> Then said they to him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; What *is* thy occupation? and whence comest thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou? <sup>9</sup> And he said to them, I *am* a Hebrew;

and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who hath made the sea and the dry *land*. <sup>10</sup> Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said to him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. <sup>11</sup> Then said they to him, What shall we do to thee, that the sea may be calm to us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. <sup>12</sup> And he said to them, Take me, and cast me into the sea; so shall the sea be calm to you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring *it* to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. <sup>14</sup> Wherefore they cried to the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. <sup>15</sup> So they took Jonah, and cast him into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. <sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD, and made vows. <sup>17</sup> Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

## 2

<sup>1</sup> Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, <sup>2</sup> And said, I cried by reason of my affliction to the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardst my voice. <sup>3</sup> For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods

encompassed me: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. <sup>4</sup> Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again towards thy holy temple. <sup>5</sup> The waters encompassed me, *even* to the soul: the depth inclosed me on every side, the weeds were wrapped about my head. <sup>6</sup> I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. <sup>7</sup> When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came to thee, into thy holy temple. <sup>8</sup> They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. <sup>9</sup> But I will sacrifice to thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* which I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD. <sup>10</sup> And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land* .

### 3

<sup>1</sup> And the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the preaching that I bid thee. <sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. <sup>4</sup> And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. <sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. <sup>6</sup> For word came to the king of Nineveh, and he arose

from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *himself* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: <sup>8</sup> But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God: yes, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. <sup>9</sup> Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? <sup>10</sup> And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do to them; and he did *it* not.

## 4

<sup>1</sup> But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. <sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before to Tarshish: for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest of the evil. <sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live. <sup>4</sup> Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry? <sup>5</sup> So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD God prepared a gourd,

and made *it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. <sup>7</sup> But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. <sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, when the sun rose that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, *It is better for me to die than to live.* <sup>9</sup> And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, *even* to death. <sup>10</sup> Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for which thou hast not labored, neither made it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: <sup>11</sup> And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and *also* many cattle?

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